

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5373

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 15457

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, GE, UK

SUBJECT: EXFILTRATION FROM GDR - CASE OF UK SUBJECT
SUSAN BALLANTINE

1. BRITISH CONTINUE TO BE UPSET AND CONCERNED BY
GDR HANDLING OF EXFILTRATION CASE INVOLVING 22 YEAR
OLD UK SUBJECT SUSAN BALLANTINE. UK EMBASSY OFFICER
HERE HAS TOLD US THAT GDR STILL HAS NOT RESPONDED TO
UK INQUIRIES AS TO BASIC FACTS OF THE CASE (INCLUDING
EXACT NATURE OF CHARGE AGAINST HER) NOR HAS COUNCIL
OF MINISTERS CHAIRMAN SINDERMAN REPLIED TO PRIME
MINISTER WILSON'S PERSONAL MESSAGE. BALLANTINE, A
WEST BERLIN RESIDENT, WAS RECENTLY SENTENCED BY GDR
COURT TO FIVE YEARS IMPRISONMENT, BUT THE BRITISH
DO NOT EVEN KNOW THE CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE GIRL'S ARREST.
THE GDR REP IN THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT COMMISSION HAS
INDICATED TO HIS FRG COUNTERPART THAT BALLANTINE WAS
ARRESTED ON A TRANSIT ROUTE FROM WEST BERLIN TO THE
FRG WHILE IN VIOLATION OF GDR LAW REGARDING
SMUGGLING OF PERSONS. UK EMBASSY IN EAST BERLIN, ON
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THE OTHER HAND, HAS LEARNED UNOFFICIALLY THAT

BALLANTINE WAS NOT ON A TRANSIT ROUTE WHEN ARRESTED.

2. IN AN EFFORT TO PUT SOME PRESSURE ON THE EAST GERMANS, IN ADDITION TO WILSON'S REQUEST TO SINDERMANN TO FREE THE GIRL, FON MIN CALLAGHAN HAS TURNED DOWN AN INVITATION FROM ACTING GDR FON MIN FISCHER TO VISIT THE GDR. THE REJECTION, ACCORDING TO UK EMBASSY OFFICE HERE, WAS NOT BASED SOLELY ON BALLANTINE CASE, BUT IT WAS A FACTOR IN CALLAGHAN'S DECISION.

3. ASIDE FROM THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE CASE, THE BRITISH PROFESS SURPRISE AT GDR NON-COOPERATION REGARDING CONSULAR ACCESS, WHICH HAS BEEN LIMITED SO FAR TO THE PRESENCE OF UK CONSULAR OFFICER IN GDR COURT AT TIME SENTENCE PASSED. THE BRITISH, WITHOUT A CONSULAR AGREEMENT WITH THE GDR BUT NOW IN MIDST OF NEGOTIATIONS ON ONE, HAD EXPECTED A MORE FORTHCOMING ATTITUDE AND ARE ANGRY AND DISAPPOINTED. ACCORDING TO UK EMBASSY OFFICER, LONDON IS NOW REVIEWING ITS POSITION ON A CONSULAR AGREEMENT TO ASSURE PROPER PROTECTION AND COVERAGE OF UK INTERESTS. COMMENT: UK EMBASSY OFFICER GAVE IMPRESSION THAT LONDON HAS BEEN SHOCKED BY GDR ACTIONS IN BALLANTINE CASE AND IS CONCERNED NOT TO GET INTO POSITION WHERE UK MUST RELY ON GDR "GOODWILL" IN SUCH MATTERS.
HILLENBRAND

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